

HAMMOND (W^m A.)

Writer's Cramp



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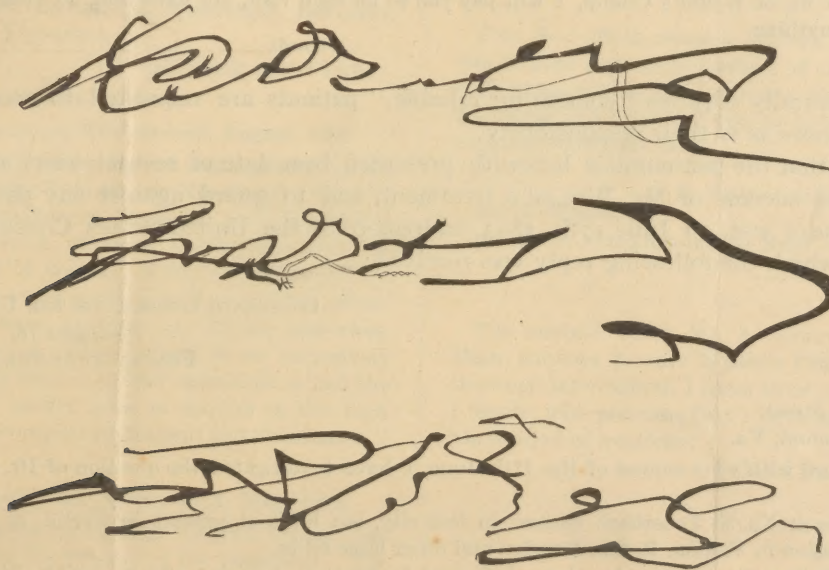
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WRITER'S CRAMP.

Fac simile of three attempts of a victim of Writer's Cramp to sign his name (James Ely); showing the disease in its advanced stage.

FROM "DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM"

Special Permission of the Author, Dr. WM. A. HAMMOND, Washington, D. C.



The formidable—and eventually disabling—malady, commonly known as "Writer's Cramp," but often affecting Telegraphers, Musicians and hand workers of various kinds, has, until recent years, been recognized by the medical profession as one of the "incurables."

All methods of treatment have been admitted failures, and all contrivances, use of different sizes and shapes of penholders, mechanical means of bracing the hand, &c., have proved to be but temporary makeshifts. The most common expedient, learning to write with the other hand, serves only for a time. In the vast majority of cases, this, too, sooner or later, becomes similarly affected, and the sufferer's resources are exhausted.

It is now conceded by the foremost European physicians that the disease has at last found its master in Mr. JULIUS WOLFF, of Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany. The accompanying testimonials from medical authorities of world-wide reputation, and from the leading medical journals of Europe, leave no room for doubt as to the remarkable powers of this, now celebrated, specialist.

Anxious to obtain the relief afforded by this man alone, a movement is now being made by a number of well known business and professional men of Richmond, Va., to induce Mr. WOLFF to visit this city and undertake their cases. Mr. WOLFF has consented to come over this fall on condition that fifteen patients are secured for him in advance, who will be ready to meet him promptly after his arrival.

Sufferers from this malady who live by their pen, and who realize how serious would be the consequences attending a final breakdown in their occupation—an event that is usually only a question of time—will not hesitate at any expenditure in reason that will avert such a calamity. The conditions upon which Mr. WOLFF will visit Richmond, and his terms for treatment, will be seen from the following extract from a letter to the gentleman conducting the arrangements:

"I am ready to come over to the U. S. if I have only fifteen patients to start with. I am so sure of success in my way of treating this malady, that I only expect to be paid when improvement is showing itself. I therefore only treat such cases as I am pretty well satisfied, after consultation, that I can cure. I make a test with each patient, for my own satisfaction. This test lasts two or three days, and if not successful during this short time, up to my own expectations, and if the patient himself is not satisfied of some slight improvement during even this brief time, I dismiss him as beyond my powers, and without charging him anything. In cases, however, where I treat the patient until completely cured, he is to pay me \$5 for each visit. * * * As a rule, from 15 to 25 visits are necessary. In some cases I have been able to treat the malady in 8 days, with from one to two visits daily. After the first three sittings, I am able to approximate the number of visits that will be necessary. * * * As I find, without trouble, everywhere in Europe, sufficient business, I could only be induced to come over for a certain number of patients, and if I had the names and addresses of the patients in my hands before I started on my trip. In such case, I would come over at the end of September or October. Send me, therefore, something reliable, if you are anxious to be cured, or I cannot come over."

Attention is called to the fact, that no expense is to be incurred, except in case of successful treatment. Persons, therefore, desiring to secure the benefit of Mr. WOLFF's visit to America, are directed to write a letter worded substantially as per form below, and send it to E. B. MARQUESS, P. O. Box 258, Richmond, Va.

(Date and Place of Residence.) _____

MR. JULIUS WOLFF,

Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany:

I agree to become one of your patients upon the following conditions. I will meet you promptly after your arrival in Richmond, Va., and if you cure me of Writer's Cramp, I will pay you \$5 for each visit, not exceeding 25 visits, but if you do not cure me, I am not to pay you anything.

(Signed), _____

As Mr. WOLFF naturally requires "something reliable," patients are requested to accompany their letters with satisfactory references as to their responsibility.

It will be noticed that the testimonials herewith presented bear date of several years ago. To obviate any doubt of the continued success of Mr. WOLFF's treatment, and to guard against any possible mis-step in the matter, a letter of inquiry was, on June 17th, 1893, addressed to the United States Consul in the city of Mr. WOLFF's residence to which the following reply was received:

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,

Niedenau 78,

FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN, July 7th, 1893.

E. B. MARQUESS, Esq.,

1009 East Main Street,

Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir: In compliance with your request of the 17th June, I have investigated the question of Dr. JULIUS WOLFF, with the following result:

Dr. WOLFF still resides at No. 35 Feuerbach Strasse, in this city, but he is at present in Berlin, as he travels a great deal, practising his special profession in Vienna, Berlin, Dresden and other large cities.

His success continues to be quite remarkable. I am informed by another physician who knows Dr. WOLFF's practice well, that in cases where the paralysis of the arm results from disease of the stomach, he can do very little, and frankly says so. But such cases are very rare; in a vast majority, his system is entirely efficacious, and effects a complete cure in from 14 to 21 days, the patient receiving treatment every day.

I will obtain and send you within three or four days a copy of the "*Gartenlaube*," giving very full particulars of some of Dr. WOLFF's latest cures. He would not be permitted to practice as a specialist in Germany or Austria if his system were not genuine and effective. Quacks are not tolerated here. The son-in-law of Dr. WOLFF, whom I have seen, tells me that the Doctor is quite inclined to go to America, if he could be sure of securing there advantages which would compensate him for leaving his practice here for so long a time. I shall assure him that there ought to be no doubt on that point, as the disease is very prevalent in the United States, and among a high class of patients.

Holding myself always at your service, I remain, sir,

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK H. MASON,

Consul General.

According to promise, Mr. Mason forwarded the paper referred to in his letter. This paper is a reprint of a contribution to a recent number of the "*Gartenlaube*," a prominent German magazine. This article, too long for reproduction here, records Mr. WOLFF's continued successes, and shows that all that was said of him by his distinguished endorsers a few years ago, is true of him to-day.

The time being limited, in which negotiations with Mr. WOLFF must be concluded, if at all, and as names will cease to be entered after the number is made up, those who are anxious to avail themselves of this valuable opportunity, will do well to forward their letters without delay.

Information upon any points not covered by this circular, can be obtained upon application.

Address all communications:

E. B. MARQUESS,

P. O. Box 258,

Richmond, Va.

[The following statement is submitted simply as proof of the high standing of the men who testify to the value of WOLFF's treatment.]

From HUNTER MCGUIRE, M. D., *Chief Surgeon St. Luke's Home, Richmond, Va.; President College of Physicians and Surgeons, Richmond, Va.; Past President American Medical Association:*

RICHMOND, VA., July 12th, 1893.

I don't know anything about Mr. JULIUS WOLFF, but among the most eminent medical men in Europe are Billroth, Nussbaum, Esmarch, Wagner, Bardeleben, Bamberger, Benedikt, Westpfahl, Charcot and Vigouroux.

HUNTER MCGUIRE.

From the *Berlin Klinischen Wochenschrift*, August, 1882.

"Mr. JULIUS WOLFF has the very highest testimonials from the first medical authorities like Billroth, von Nussbaum, Esmarch, Wagner, Bardeleben, Bamberger, Benedikt and Westpfahl, and Charcot and Vigouroux, of Paris, to the astounding results of his new method of treating Writer's Cramp, against which distressing trouble every method, so far—medical, physical, and electrical—has been, as every one knows, powerless. The chief factors of this new system consist in an exclusively technical experience and certain skilled operations which the practicing physician can hardly hope to acquire to the high degree attained by this accomplished Masseur and Gymnasten."

From the *Vienna Medicinischen Wochenschrift*, May, 1880.

"Mr. J. WOLFF, Specialist in treating Writer's Cramp, has been here for some time in the practice of his profession. The first physicians of Germany, Bamberger, Billroth, Esmarch, Wagner, etc., have given him written testimonials in which it is affirmed that Mr. WOLFF has really succeeded in curing Writer's Cramp in several cases which had come under their observation. Induced by these undoubtedly creditable testimonials, we have taken occasion to be personally present to witness the manipulations which Mr. WOLFF makes use of in his treatment. The whole proceeding is a simple one, and is based chiefly upon personal experience in the exercise of his art, and on the knowledge of the anatomical construction of the parts of the body in question. * * * * We have recently watched three cases from the beginning to the end of the treatment, and have been able to note surprising and substantial improvements after from twelve to twenty days."

KIEL, November 20, 1879.

With pleasure I testify that Mr. WOLFF, from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, has cured business men that I sent to him, who had been suffering for several years from Writer's Cramp, by treating them for a fortnight, and has cured them completely.

DR. F. ESMARCH,

Prof. Geh. Medicinalrath und Generalarzt.

VIENNA, March 5, 1880.

I herewith testify that three gentlemen who were suffering from Writer's Cramp, tried to write in my presence, but had to stop very soon on account of the cramp. After having been treated by Mr. J. WOLFF, from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, they were able to write fairly long letters in distinct, fluent handwriting, which letters were shown me to-day by Mr. WOLFF.

PROF. DR. BILLROTH.

VIENNA, March 10, 1880.

In the case of some patients which came under my observation, the method of Mr. WOLFF has affected in a short time a cure or amelioration of Writer's Cramp.

PROF. DR. BAMBERGER.

VIENNA, March 9, 1880.

The undersigned herewith affirms that he had an opportunity to apply the method of Mr. WOLFF, from Frankfurt, to several patients known to him, and that he found it adapted to the cure of Writer's Cramp. I therefore recommend the same to my colleagues for further trials.

PROF. DR. BENEDIKT.

VIENNA, July 13, 1882.

Dear Sir:—With pleasure I inform you of the permanent success of your gymnastic method of treating my case, in which continuous writing had caused a lively feeling of pain in the muscles of my hand and arm up to the shoulder, forcing me to exercise the utmost care.

DR. STELLWAG,

k. k. Professor an der k. k. Universität Wien.

Mr. J. WOLFF,

From Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

MUNICH, July 5, 1880.

The method which Mr. J. WOLFF, from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, employs to cure Writer's Cramp, I must confess, after thorough information, I deem to be excellent and effective, and I testify, with pleasure, that I have seen very fine successes from his method of treatment.

PROF. DR. VON NUSSBAUM,

k. b. Generalstabsarzt.

LEIPZIG, December, 1879.

Mr. J. WOLFF, from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, has cured in a few weeks three men who were suffering from Writer's Cramp. The malady has not shown itself again after six months, in spite of the fact that these persons have resumed their former occupations in the same old way.

PROF. MED. DR. E. WAGNER,

Geh. Medicinalrath, &c.

BERLIN, May 25, 1880.

The writing teacher, Mr. WOLFF, from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, has shown me, both before the beginning and at the end of the treatment, a young man who was severely afflicted with Writer's Cramp, and has explained to me his method of curing this disease. I testify that the fundamental principles of his method of treatment seem to me to be very rational, and I have satisfied myself of the reality of the disease of the young man, both before the beginning of the treatment—which lasted fourteen days—and also for another fourteen days of the continuance of his relief from the disease.

DR. A. BARDELEBEN,

ord. Professor der Chirurgie,

Geh. Medicinalrath und Generalarzt

a la suite des Sanitätscorps.

AMSTERDAM, January 12, 1879.

I have had the opportunity in two cases of convincing myself of the value of Mr. WOLFF's method. One was that of a gentleman, who, according to his own statement, had been afflicted for years with this trouble (Cramp of the Flexor Muscles) and able to write only with the help of mechanical contrivances in a very imperfect manner. This cramp was cured in the year 1877 in a short time, and up to the present time there has been no relapse. The other patient introduced himself to me on the 19th of December, 1878, with Cramp of the Extensor Muscles, with which he had been affected since 1871. On the 11th of January this gentleman came back. His handwriting which had previously been illegible and which he could produce only

with the greatest labor, was after a short time quite normal. The writing, too, was done with ease, and the patient considered himself as fully cured. At the request of Mr. WOLFF, I take pleasure in testifying to this.

DR. H. HERTZ,
Prof. der klinischen Medicin.

FRANKFURT-ON-THE-MAIN, Sept. 1, 1882.

I have had occasion within the last year to recommend to Mr. WOLFF a large number of patients who were suffering from Writer's Cramp and similar muscular affections, for treatment by his gymnastic and massage system; and I have convinced myself, by cases known to me both before and after treatment, of the brilliant results of his method, as I have recorded in an article to the *Berlin Klinischen Wochenschrift*, No. 34, August 21, 1882. I can recommend Mr. WOLFF very highly as a Gymnasten and Masseur in every respect, particularly for the treatment of Writer's Cramp and similar muscular affections.

HOFRATH DR. STEIN.

From the Pamphlet of Prof. Dr. Sir Knight J. N. VON NUSSBAUM, *k. b., Generalsabstanzt, etc.*, in Munich.

"SIMPLE AND SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF WRITER'S CRAMP."

Edited by JOS. ANT. FINSTERLIN.

3d Edition, 1891.

(Page 4.) "Somebody might, perhaps, say that the celebrated writing teacher, Mr. J. WOLFF, from Frankfurt, has already discovered a method of curing Writer's Cramp, and has applied the same in many cases with brilliant success. Yes, that is certainly true, and I am not ignorant of the fact, for Mr. WOLFF has in his possession the testimony, not only of Billroth, Esmarch, Wagner, Bardeleben, Bamberger, Hertz, Benedikt, Charcot, and Vigouroux, but of myself also, that he has really and effectively cured Writer's Cramp. This man, by his long experience as a writing teacher, and being well endowed with reasoning powers and a talent for observation, has made such a study of Writer's, Pianist's, and Violinist's Cramps, and has subdued the same by a system of gymnastics, performed partly by his own hands and partly with gutta-percha straps, and all in such a happy way, that I could not help testifying in the way I did. But while Mr. WOLFF does not make a secret of his method, but explains the same to every physician who is curious to know it, nobody has yet been able to cope with him with the same success. One can really say that the good results of Mr. WOLFF's method, are founded chiefly in his personal experience and individual dexterity. He understands how to restore those groups of muscles which need the appliance of his healing gymnastics better than our most exact electro-therapists. The Court Councillor, Prof. Stein, very properly said, in his recent pamphlet, that the peculiar manner in which Mr. WOLFF performs his manoeuvres cannot be described, and that his successes cannot yet be theoretically explained."

(Page 10.) "I do not believe my nature is a jealous one, but I must confess, openly, that I have felt sore to think that a writing teacher is better able to cure this disease than our own physicians who boast to be celebrated throughout the world."

From the Minutes of the *Society of Physicians in Vienna*.

(Introduced by Professor Billroth, I delivered a lecture before the Society of Physicians in Vienna, upon the subject of Writer's Cramp, which was published in the *Klinischen Wochenschrift*, No. 21, March, 1889.

Dr. BONSBERGER: "As one of the patients referred to by the gentleman who has just spoken (Mr. WOLFF,) I would like to add a few words:

"I had Writer's Cramp about two years ago, as a result of

various nervous diseases. These troubles disappeared in course of time, but the Cramp continued. Electricity and massage showed no results worth speaking of. A modified electrical bracelet relieved to some extent the writing, but had no effect on the disease itself. The Cramp varied in intensity, but continued to increase steadily. To the pains in the muscles of the thumb were added pains in the middle and ring fingers, the wrist, and partially in the fore-arm.

"Writer's Cramp is no trifling matter. The man who suffers from it considers sometimes for days whether he shall write a short letter or even a few lines, even if he is not naturally a lazy writer. If he has finally made up his mind to write, he finds very often that he has not written what he had intended because his whole attention has been fixed on his hand; rather I should say, on the effort to find such a way of holding his hand as will make the process of writing less painful; and also because, without intending to do so, he tries to save words, syllables, letters even.

"For two weeks now I have been under the treatment of the gentleman who preceded me (Mr. WOLFF,) and after the results already attained, I think I can look forward to a speedy recovery. Of his way of proceeding, I can say that there is nothing mechanical about it, but that it is thoroughly original. I can testify to his unparalleled skill in the location, and isolation even, of the smallest muscles, and to the happy way in which he selects the particular kind of gymnastics that are adapted to each individual case. I deem the method of Mr. WOLFF a distinct advance in the treatment of Writer's Cramp. Yes, I believe that by it a gap in therapeutics has been filled."

From the *Deutsche Medicinalzeitung*, January, 1883.

"Mr. J. WOLFF, writing teacher, from Frankfurt-on-the-Main, presented at the session of the Berlin Medical Society, on the 28th of December, the patients whom he had previously presented at the session of November 29th of the previous year before the commencement of their treatment. These were as follows:

"Two young gentlemen who had been forced to give up their occupations as book-keepers on account of Writer's Cramp, and also two that were afflicted with extreme cramp of the extensors. After three weeks treatment, consisting of massage and gymnastics, they not only wrote without cramp or pain, but quite fluently and easily. We would, in fact, call it fine penmanship. In the fifth patient—who had been treated four years ago by Mr. WOLFF—there had been no signs of the cramp again. Also, a lady who had been afflicted with Piano Cramp, and who had been sent to WOLFF by Dr. Kauffman, was cured in a few weeks, according to a written statement to the Medical Society by Dr. Kauffman."

From *Le Progres Medical* (Paris), January, 1882.

"Our colleague, Dr. Stein, has spoken to us of the success that has been obtained recently in Germany by Mr. WOLFF. His statements induced us to enter into correspondence with this specialist, and finally to confide to him, upon his arrival in Paris, two patients which Prof. Charcot had sent to us for electrical treatment. These two patients, after treatment for fifteen days under the direction of Mr. WOLFF, have been cured. This double success gains in significance when one considers that Mr. WOLFF arrives with numerous testimonials written to the same effect, and signed by the principal physicians of Austria and Germany—Nussbaum, Bamberger, Benedikt, Billroth, Esmarch, etc. Mr. WOLFF proceeds with a confidence that is truly astonishing to anybody that recognizes the fact that from the character of this malady it is almost incurable."



Handwritten notes in the right margin: "Hammann's (Wolff's) Cramp" and "Writer's Cramp".

